[Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar]

My honourable friend Mr. Chandy Mukkadan has been saying that by letting in saline water soon after harvest into the fields it will be more conducive to the betterment of lands. My experience as a practical agriculturist for the past twenty five years and more and by conducting agricultural operations myself is otherwise and I am convinced that the letting in saline water into the fields will certainly prove injurious to the lands and not only that it will result in permanent injury being done to the neighbouring land as well.

President: That has been the impression in the land. But I am surprised to hear otherwise from Mr. Mukkadan.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: In this connection, I shall refer to the research work conducted by the University in respect of the saline water.

Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai: May I know from the honourable member how Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan says that he has tried the same in his lands and that they have produced useful results.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: I am unable to understand how Mr. Chandy Mukkadan is giving a different opinion altogether. However I shall refer to page 31 of the Administration Report of the University of Travancore for 1116 M. E. The Research Department of the University have conducted investigations relating to reclaimed kayal areas.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പരുടെ വക സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ പത്തുകൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്ക് മുമ്പു കിട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടിരുന്നതിൽ വളരെ അധികം വിളവു ഇപ്പോൾ കിട്ടിവരുന്നില്ലേ?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: ഇല്ല. This is what the report says:

> "During the year under report a careful laboratory study was made by the Bio-Chemist of the factors responsible for the failure of crops in the "C" Block of the Vembanad Reclamations. The analysis of samples from the area showed a deficiency in Nitrogen and the presence, in large amounts, of water soluble alkali salts. The only remedy for this defect is to wash out the salts that have already accumulated and to prevent saline water getting into the land after harvest."

This is the expert opinion on the matter. Even a layman like myself has found out the destructive nature of the saline water in fields. This is the very reason why our lands in Kuttanad are not producing good results. They allow saline water into the fields. All this is due to the propaganda that is carried on in those parts by some retired Head of the Department. It is his advice that by letting in saline water in the fields, production could be

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increased. Evidently after retirement, that particular Head of the Department found no work ; he has issued pamphlets saying that saline water will be beneficial to paddy cultivation. Unfortunately some fools experimented with that and learned their better lessons afterwards. They followed the advice of that man and brought injury to their lands. In my humble opinion, by allowing saline water into the lands, almost all the surrounding lands have become unfit for cultivation at the present moment. Therefore I would seriously request Government to promulgate some law by which the letting in of saline water may be stopped forthwith.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, it is a matter of great satisfaction to me that the general criticisms levelled against the working of my department by the honourable members of this House have not been in the least captious, on the other hand they have been definitely helpful and constructive. I do not think, Sir, that it is possible for me within the short time at my disposal to deal with the various subjects that have been raised by the honourable members during the course of the debate.

President: What do you say about the point that was replied last by Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: I will dispose of that fundamental point. Regarding the desirability of letting in saline water into paddy fields, I must say at once that it is a most pernicious practice which should be put a stop to at the earliest possible moment. I have conducted scientific investigations on that matter myself and the experiments carried out by the members of the Research Department of the University show the same result. With that as the authority I can definitely state that letting in of saline water will prove in the long run injurious to the cultivation of paddy.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know whether the letting in of saline water into a man's land in Kuttanad will not in course of time adversely affect the adjoining lands as well?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes Sir. It is likely to pass into the neighbouring fields and contaminate the soil therein. With regard to the production of food grains in the State such as paddy I have dealt with the subject at considerable length on various occasions previously. In my reply to the debate on the general discussion of the budget also I dealt with the matter briefly. I want to assure my honourable friend Mr. Mukkadan that the policy that we have to adopt in Travancore regarding the cultivation of food crops is one of intensive cultivation and not extensive cultivation. Thanks to the very high birth rate, and the fecundity of the population of the State it is impossible for me to think of the idea

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[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

of whole sale disafforestation for cultivation. The idea that we have enormously large areas of that kind—one honourable member stated that there are 5 lakhs of acres fit for cultivation of paddy—is not at all correct. Even granting that it is possible to do so, I do not think that that is the method by which the people should augment the production of food crops. As far as I can see, Sir, that with the present low yield per acre in Travancore, it should be our attempt to grow two blades of grass where only one grows now. As the Dewan President stated sometime before he left the State in one of his statements, the yield here is extremely low. The only way by which we could increase the output is to introduce intensive cultivation. By means of better ploughing, better seeds and better manuring, I can say with some authority that.

Mr. E. K. Kuriype : ഈ പറയുന്ന കാര്യം ഒരുവർഷംകൊണ്ടു സാധിക്കുമോ എന്നറിഞ്ഞാൽകൊള്ളാം.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : സാധിക്കുകയില്ല..

It is a long range programme. Any honourable member will concede that it will not be possible for us to increase the output of paddy by 50 p. c. overnight as if by the wave of a magic wand.

Mr. E. K. Kuriype : അപ്പോൾ ഈ നൂറിപതിനെട്ടിൽ ഞങ്ങൾ എന്താണ് ചെയ്യേണ്ടതു്?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: മരച്ചീനി മുതലായ കൃഷികൾ ചെയ്യാമല്ലോ.

By invensive cultivation we can substantially increase the outturn of our crops.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: കൃഷിക്കു ഉപയുക്തമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്താൽ ഇവിടെ ആഹാരത്തിനാവശ്യമുള്ള സാധനങ്ങൾ കൃഷിചെയ്തുണ്ടാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമെന്ന മെമ്പർക്ക് വിശ്വാസമുണ്ടോ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar അതിനുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വേണ്ടുവോളം ഇല്ല. The policy of indiscriminate disafforestation will be like killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. I have had any number of discussions on this matter with my friend the Conservator of Forests. He is in full sympathy with the spirit underlying the aspirations expressed by the honourable members on the floor of this House regarding increased production of paddy. He has stated that as an emergency measure, as a war measure, temporary leases of those grassy slopes in Vandan-

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mettu and other places can be given for cultivation. He has also assured me that when the existence of definite swampy areas suitable for cultivation is brought to the notice of Government, individual cases will be examined on their merits and that temporary cultivation would be allowed in those areas.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know how long will that kind of cultivation take to flourish in the country?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: In Kuttanad, if the ryots make up their minds to cultivate the lands lying fallow, once a year instead of once in two years, the yield will be considerable. There are facilities for such kinds of cultivation at the present time. I can assert that by such cultivation it will be possible to raise at least 40 lakhs of paras more of paddy every year. About a year ago a sub-committee of the Economic Development Board presided over by the honourable member the Legal Remembrancer, went into the whole question of annual cultivation of punja lands very carefully; they interviewed several cultivators and collected statistics on the matter, and submitted an elaborate report indicating the possibility of producing larger yield of crops. No time is more opportune than now for bonafide agriculturists to come forward and put forth their best efforts to produce as much food grain as possible as the prices have worked up considerably recently.

President: Then what is the real hindrance to that policy being brought into force?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: There is not sufficient co-operation and enterprise on the part of the people. If one goes to Nanjinad he will see feverish activity to produce as much paddy as possible. I have had conversations with gentlemen who came from Nanjinad and I learn from them that as a result of application of manures recently at least 50 thousand paras more of paddy would be produced during the ensuing season.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukadan: കട്ടംകുഷി സംബന്ധിച്ചു നിയോഗിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന സബ് കമ്മറിയുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിന്മേൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് എതു നയമാണു എടുക്കുവാൻ പോകുന്നതെന്നും ഏതിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തി വിളവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുവാനുള്ള മാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളാണു നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തുവാൻ തിരുമാനിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നും പറയാമോ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Yes, Sir. That report was submitted to Government and they ordered that the Chief Engineer and I should go into that question in detail because it is a matter involving several lakhs of rupees. We have examined the proposals and we recomended that as a first instalment about Rs. 50,000 might

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[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

be set apart for improving tanks and canals for irrigation purposes. Formerly people went in for paddy from Siam and other places. Now we have been faced with a situation under which we have to grow all our food stuff.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: What about the manure depot in Sherthalai?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: A manure depot has already been opened at Shertallai.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Will the Director be pleased to send all the experts to that area at least for one year?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: That cannot be done.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: What about my suggestion with regard to ploghs?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: I do not think it is very necessary because we have suitable ploughs. The question of introducing a special plough for Kuttanad, which is water-logged, is under consideration. A committee consisting of the Electrical Engineer, the Chief Engineer, and myself have made suggestion for certain modifications to be made in the motor plough.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Why not have the ordinary plough? Will it not provide more employment to peoplee?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: In Kuttanad the ploughing has to be done within a short period. If the ordinary plough is used it will not be possible to do the ploughing quickly.

I am very thankful to the honourable members for all the suggestions they have made in regard to the fundamental question of increasing the production of our food stuff.

The question that a sum of Rs. 1,65,686 be granted under Demand XX—Agriculture was then put and carried.

The grant was made.

INDUSTRIES.

Mr. E. I. Chacko (*Director of Industries*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 96,191 under demand XXI, Industries including Rubber Factory.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, I support the Demand. In doing so I wish to express the hope that the Department will flourish and develop into much bigger proportions under the guidance of the present Director. It has often been stated on the side of Government that there has not been adequate response on the part of the people in taking up key industries started by Government. I have to submit respectfully that that apprehension is not well founded. People have been accused that they have not got business acumen, that capital is shy and so on and so forth. Some of the instances quoted are the Rubber Factory and the Plywood Factory. I may inform the House that the policy of Government in this matter has not been as encouraging as it ought

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to be towards local enterprise. I am aware that persons who have business instinct, and who could find the necessary finance for taking up the industries, have submitted proposals to Government, but those proposals have not received the same sympathetic attention that they should have received in preference to other proposals by foreign concerns.

Another point I wish to lay emphasis upon is that small industries are experiencing serious handicap for want of banking facilities. Short term credit loans are not available in Travancore. Representations have been made to the Credit Bank to consider the possibility of giving short term loans to industrialists. But the rules of the Credit Bank stand in the way of giving loans except on immovable property.

President: The question of amending the Credit Bank Act is under consideration.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Since the question of suitably amending the Act is under consideration I do not wish to say anything further.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, I rise to support the Demand. I have merely to repeat what I said in connection with another Demand. Anyway I am glad that if an officer, a distinguished Chemist, developed a love for Secretariat work, here is an officer who was engaged in Secretariat work developing a love for industries. The whole House is aware that long before he became the head of the department he was interested in cottage industries. Members of this House might have seen him taking up some small machinery invented by him or by his assistants to produce tapioca flour and other things. He was also interested in weaving. Therefore I am glad that we have got as head of department one who has a natural love for the activities of the department. But the department as such has not been doing much useful work all these years apart from disbursing certain grants to weaving institutions. Of course, I know the long and impressive array of experts in the department. I wish that they are once a year called up for parade.

President: There are not many in the department now.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: They are all under the University.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: God save the University is my fervant and pious prayer to the Almighty.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: One of the experts is in the Registration Department.

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Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Making parchments, I suppose.

My suggestion is that in order to assess their work they may be asked particularly to concentarate in a *karapuram* area in 1118. Some social agency is doing some useful work there. Mr. Kuruvilla and Mr. Chacko are associated with it. If they can get Government saction and can also spend more money they can concentrate in Shertallai. It will be useful in two ways ; for one thing, it will relieve the present distress of Shertalai and for another thing it will have a propaganda value in the matter of cottage industries and things of that kind, Otherwise let us on a good auspicious day in the year close this department which began in an unfortunate way.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Sir, I never wanted to speak on this Demand because I have dilated on it during the general discussion of the Budget, but after hearing my friend Mr. Krishna Aiyar I am tempted to speak a word on this Demand. Sir, hitherto we were under the impression that Travancoreans were not forthcoming to take up big undertakings like the Rubber Factory and Plywood Factory. If what the honourable member, Mr. Krishna Aiyar stated that there were Travancoreans ready to take up these factories is true, then it is eminently unfortunate that all these big and remunerative concerns were given to outside capitalist and interpruenors. In the past, Sir, industrial loans were lavishly given and allotments in the Budget to the tune of lakhs of rupees were made. But Sir, of late the allotment towards this item has dwindled down to a few thousands. It may be said that there is the Credit Bank which advances money in this direction. The less said about the Credit Bank in its functioning especially in this direction is better.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: May I point out that in all the cases where the applications conformed to the Credit Bank Rules loans were granted ?

President: The question of the amendment of the Rules is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: The information is consoling, and I thank you, Sir, for the same. From the time of the inception of the Industries Department, a quarter of a century back to this day it has been always giving alternative of hope and despair. The plithora of the so-called experts in the department, though of late, our University has offered a safe and cosy assylum to them to vegetate, work experimenting and experimenting, and still it has not emerged from the stage of experiment. Last year this time when we were speaking on this demand, many of us from this side of the

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House vehemently advocated the erasing out of existence this costly show of the Government, but, as a panacea, it would, appear, the Government have changed the personnel of the head of the department. An energetic new officer has been put in to guide the destiny of the department, and I would take this opportunity to strongly urge him to concentrate his attention to the resuscitation of the dead and dying as well as the starting afresh of indigenous cottage industries—a policy accepted and declared by the spokesmen of Government in unequivocable terms. Yes, we would give a long rope to him; and we wish that he would justify the existence and continuance of the department when this Demand comes up next year.

But Sir, as a remedy, it seems that now the Government have made a change in the personnel in the Director of Industries. But this drifting policy should not be continued. Industrialisation of the country should be the main policy by insisting or starting further cottage industries. If this department cannot do it, I think we should do away with it.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: In the report, page two, it is said that the question of bringing the factories in the State under the Factories Act was being considered during the year. Towards the end of the paragraph, it is also said that the congestion of the poor labourers is very pitiable; notably in factories dealing with shelling, the condition is described as very pitiable. This is the report for 1116. I ask Government what has happened about this during 1117? The suspicion that comes to my mind about the promises that are being made is due to the delay in these things. If, when the year is coming to an end, the Director is able to report that something has been done in the case of these poor labourers, sympathy for whom has been expressed so well, we will be assured that Government is doing something. That is the first thing that I wanted to say.

Now about starch. I have heard two versions about this. As soon as I came to Trivandrum, and visited one of my old respectable friends, his wife ran up to me and said 'Do you know that three persons died because they ate the refuse of the starch?'

Mr. E. I. Chacko: Is the member aware that these persons might have died due to eating rotten pidda?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: But there is no reason why they should have to take this refuse of starch. Also it is a fact.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Is the honourable member aware that they were allowed to die in peace in the Women's Hospital?

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Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla: I am not a regular visitor to the hospital. So I do not know. I have seen the resolution of a large meeting in Central Travancore which says that this tapioca starch, I mean this process of making this starch out of the tapioca, is not to be prevented by Government. They hope that this starch will be on a par with rubber, and cardamom and they can get much money. Consequently they want that this should not be stopped. I would request the Government and those who know the scientific aspect of the thing to be very careful in dealing with this question.

About the Department itself, two years ago I expressed very grave concern. That concern still remains. I know the new Director of Industries is interested in weaving, that he is interested, in the making of starch. But we expect more things from the Director than these two things. We should like to know from the Director of Industries whether he has anything more in hand.

Turning to the report again, on page 13 reference is made to some kind of board which met during the year to pass applications for industrial loans. Twenty applications were received, of these seven were considered and some grants were made and 13 were refused. It was very easy to reject the applications. Whether it be applications for loans from the Credit Bank or any other thing, some excuses can be made and the applications be rejected. What is the good of continuing like this? It might merely serve to be an ornament, a decoration. Let us have some system by which while there is no loss to Government, money will be available quickly and cheaply to people who are hard hit.

I would like to give one more suggestion. Take Industries, Co-operation and Agriculture together and we find that the grant that has been made is comparatively low. Government still consider these departments as minor departments, while to us outside, these are very important departments, in fact the most important departments. You allow a lakh of rupees for the rehabilitation of the Co-operative Department, nothing is possible with this amount. You allow Rs. 9,000 for Industries. You allow a lakh again for Agriculture. In all, it amounts to three or four lakhs of rupees. These three should be brought under one departmental head and given more money. At least three lakhs of rupees should be given to each department for it to function to the advantage of the country. Unless Government consider these as major departments like the Education or the Public Works, no effective result can be expected. It is the general desire of the people that these should be considered major departments, and I hope the Government will consider the question aright and make a reorganisation of the departments.

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Mr. James Fletcher : Sir, if there is one department in Travancore which Travancoreans should encourage and support, it is the Industries Department. In Travancore, as has been repeatedly stated, we have got the agricultural industry. Except that, the people have no other means or methods of earning their living. The population of Travancore increases and the people have to find other means for living and the only possibility is the industrialisation of Travancore. This is just the department which can help the people to improve their standard of living.

Sir, it may be stated that the department is not doing all that is expected of it. That is because people expect much from a department which has only Rs. 10,000 for giving loans to people who want to start or carry on industries and for several other things. In one year Rs. 10,000 alone is allotted for loans for industrial purposes.

President : That is a misconception. As a matter of fact it is not a fact that Government are giving that sum for the industrial undertakings. In regard to major industrial undertakings, there are numerous concerns where Government have taken, at least in certain cases half of the shares of the undertaking. In certain cases, Government have given something to the extent of even a lakh of rupees as accommodation, as loans and other things. This Rs. 10,000, which is the allotment to the Director of Industries' office should not be taken as the criterion of the help and contribution that Government are making towards the industrialisation of the State.

Mr. James Fletcher : Thank you Sir, for the information. My submission is we do not have enough money to meet our needs. It is true that large amounts are invested in, say the Sugar Factory or the Ceramic Factory. We are aware of that. They are more or less having a quasi independence from the department; but the small industries come in as departmental head's special charge. Take the weaving industry for example. I am aware of the fact that very large amounts of cloth are manufactured in Travancore and the industry is saving Travancoreans from purchasing manufactured clothes from outside. There is yet scope for increasing the manufacture of clothes in Travancore. Of course, yarn has to be purchased. We are not able to produce yarn here. However, if yarn is available, there are any number of weavers who are prepared to undertake the manufacture of clothes.

President : Without interrupting the honourable member, I may say that we have invested nearly Rs. 8 lakhs for getting yarn that has to be distributed to handloom industrialists.

Mr. James Fletcher : We thank the Government for the timely aid in bringing sufficient quantities of yarn to this country and for advancing money for the purchase of yarn. And the people are also aware of the great work done by Government in the matter

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[Mr. James Fletcher]

of relieving large numbers of weavers from poverty and ruin. That is how these poor weavers have been able to carry on their work and earn their living.

Another fortunate windfall on account of the war is the manufacture of tapioca flour in Travancore. That is an industry which is now going on in the southern parts of Travancore on a large scale. It has even come to a state when tapioca is not available for food; it has risen to such high prices that people even begin to desire that manufacture of flour may be restricted. But it brings very good income not only to the tapioca grower but also to the workers as well as to the middlemen who purchase the flour and send it outside Travancore.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know whether the honourable member is aware that most of these middle men are not men of this country but come from Bombay and other places?

Mr. James Fletcher: The middle men are not men from foreign provinces, but the agents who are taking the flour from Travancore to the factories concerned, belong mostly to Bombay and Ahmedabad because they are employed by the big firms there.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: Does not the honourable member think that it will be better that the Industries Department or some other Department of Government deal directly with these firms so that the profit that goes to the middlemen may go to the poor agriculturists themselves?

Mr. James Fletcher: It is a commercial business. I would not suggest that the Government should interfere in commercial workings. If possible, they should try to restraint large profiteering and any other mischief done by the middlemen.

President: It is perfectly legal for anybody to get into touch with foreign markets and carry on the business. But so far as I am concerned I may tell the House because I have been connected with the question of war supplies for sometime that it was a desperate state of affairs. I could not make any progress. The great difficulty for men engaged in the task was to find local men who were prepared to come forward in adequate numbers or in an organised manner to take up contracts. It was at last with very great difficulty that we were able to organise the War Supplies Syndicate. I can personally testify to that. I was in search of local men to take up the work. It was with the joint effort of Mr. Chacko and with great difficulty that we were able to send even a single item to the Kasauli Institute for the purpose of testing. I am bitterly complaining about the want of local effort. So far as it is available it will have the greatest possibilities of development. I beseech honourable members of the House to do propaganda work to see that local men do engage themselves more and more in this task.

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